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ABSTRACT

This booklet is concerned with the issue of youth gangs. A brief introduction provides examples of gang violence and notes that juvenile gangs are not just a problem in large metropolitan areas, but are being established in communities nationwide. Following this introduction is a series of questions and answers about gangs. Questions focus on what a juvenile gang is, why gangs exist, where they can be found, how they can be identified, what a typical gang member is like, whether girls are members of gangs, who is most likely to join a gang, and the relationship of several factors (domestic violence, racism, drugs) to gangs. Other questions consider why youth join gangs; and "Original Gangbusters" ("OGs") or the most violent gang members; and the signs that a juvenile gang exists in a neighborhood. Separate sections consider how and why juvenile gangs develop, factors that make youths vulnerable to joining a juvenile gang, indicators of juvenile gang membership, ways that communities can combat and prevent juvenile gangs, ways that schools can combat and prevent juvenile gangs, and sources of help and information about juvenile gangs. (NB)

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